



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 93

31 October - 6 November 2018

Indonesia

Indonesia does not need to import rice because of strong state stockpiles.

According to President Director of the State Logistics Agency (Bulog), the state warehouses currently store 2.4 million tonnes of rice which is adequate to meet domestic demand. The agency is required to maintain between 1 and 1.5 million tonnes of rice that should be ready to be distributed to its warehouses across the country at any time. Therefore, Indonesia does not need to import the commodity. Besides, Bulog also purchases 3,000 tonnes of paddy rice from farmers every day. Regarding this, Bulog will have sufficient stockpiles until the end of 2018.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2018, Oct 31). *No need to import rice: Bulog.*

Philippines

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is set to begin the import of the additional 350,000 tonnes of rice.

The National Food Authority (NFA) Council earlier approved the proposal of the DTI to allow private traders to import 350,000 tonnes of rice for distribution in supermarkets in order to boost supplies and reduce high prices of the staple. Private traders are allowed to source the rice from any country

with the maximum quantity of 20,000 tonnes per importer. The imported rice should be sold in the supermarkets not over 38 pesos (0.7 USD) per kilogram. All interested private traders can submit their application in the next two weeks. After the issuance of the certificate of eligibility to import rice, rice import allocation of qualified importers must be arrived the Philippines not later than 90 days.

* 1 USD = 53.60 pesos

Source: The Philippine Star. (2018, Nov 1). *NFA allots P12.2 billion for rice imports.*

The 47,000 tonnes of rice under government-to-private (G2P) tender will arrive the Philippines by 1 December 2018.

As the National Food Authority (NFA) Council approved the importation of an additional 750,000 tonnes of rice, on 18 October 2018, the NFA secured only 47,000 tonnes of the initial 250,000 tonnes under G2P tender due to high offer prices. According to Agriculture Secretary, the 47,000-tonne rice is expected to arrive the country by 1 December 2018. Following the unsuccessful rice import tender, the NFA will reopen bidding for the remaining of 203,000 tonnes via government-to-government (G2G) scheme on 6 November 2018. The volume is expected to arrive the country between 30 November and 16 December 2018. After the G2G importation is done, the G2P importation of 500,000 tonnes will be continued. The shipments of the remaining 500,000 tonnes will be arriving at the country from December 2018 until February 2019, said Agriculture Secretary.

Source: Business World. (2018, Oct 31). *Initial rice import shipments of 47,000 MT arriving by Dec. 1.*

Thailand

Hom Mali paddy price this year tends to be higher than last year, due to drought in the major production areas.

According to Director General of the Department of Internal Trade (DIT), Hom Mali fragrant paddy is being sold between 16,000-17,000 baht (483-514 USD) per tonne, and the price rises to 18,000 baht

(544 USD) per tonne in some areas, reaching the highest record in history. This is due mainly to the drought in the northeastern provinces, consisting Roi Et, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sisaket, Surin, Buriram, Khon Kaen, and Chaiyaphum, resulting Hom Mali fragrant rice production for the 2018/2019 main crop has dropped by 20 percent from the previous season. During November and December 2018, the DTI expects that about 5 million tonnes of Hom Mali paddy will enter the market.

* 1 USD = 33.07 baht

Source: NATIONAL NEWS BUREAU OF THAILAND. (2018, Nov 4). *Farmers asked to maintain quality of rice*; Bangkok Post. (2018, Nov 4). *Govt to provide harvesting machines, expects record high rice prices*; Bangkok Post. (2018, Nov 3). *Rice farmers to flourish*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, Nov 2).

The Thai government will provide sufficient harvesting machines to help farmers gather all rice crops in time.

The Ministry of Commerce will help provide farmers with the sufficient harvesting machines during November to December at a reasonable price range 450-500 baht (12-15 USD) per rai for the service, lower than 700 baht (21 USD) as normally, to solve the problem that some farmers could not use the harvest machine because of high cost for service. With the availability of harvesting machines, farmers will be able to gather rice crops in time to maintain good quality and high prices.

* 1 USD = 33.07 baht

** 1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Nov 4). *Govt to provide harvesting machines, expects record high rice prices*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, Nov 2).

Viet Nam

Dong Thap province in the Mekong Delta is planned to use high-quality rice varieties to improve farmers' profits.

In order to create more profits, farmers in the Mekong Delta province of Dong Thap were encouraged to sow certified seeds of high-quality, high-yield, and disease-resistant rice varieties, such as Jasmine 85, VD 20,

Nang Hao 9, OM 4900, OM 5451, and OM 6976, for the 2018-19 Winter-Spring crop. A total of 205,000 hectares will be planted with an estimated average yield of 7 tonnes per hectare. Local authorities were also instructed to ensure the cultivation should be done on schedule to avoid disease outbreaks, according to Deputy Director of the province under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2018, Nov 5). *Đông Tháp plans to increase high-quality rice output*.

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: voraporn.mue@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.